

STOW TV and LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2014

The Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC) was created by the Board of Selectmen in 2002. LACAC established and oversees the local cable TV access station for the Town of Stow. This station, known as Stow TV, is intended to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Town with Comcast and Verizon.

Stow TV is available in Stow on Verizon Channels 32 and 33 and Comcast Channels 8 and 9. The even-numbered channels are allocated primarily to Public programming, and the odd-numbered to Government, with Schools and Education across all channels. The Stow TV schedule is published in the local newspaper and on the Stow TV web site at stowtv.org

Stow TV operates with a small staff and volunteer producers. Residents are welcome to use Stow TV equipment for video recording or editing and to submit or request video shows. Anyone interested in contributing video or photos, or volunteering to assist may call 978-897-7732 or email stowtv@stow-ma.gov. More information about Stow TV is at www.stowtv.org.

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed operation of the station in 2014. Assistant Coordinator Kathy O'Keefe worked closely with producers to plan program schedules and prepare video for cablecasting. She implemented and publicized program schedules and created bulletin board announcements. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for technical problems. He advised the other videographers on nearly every video event, and kept all the video equipment operating properly.

Marika Barnett, Jonathan Daisy, Lew Halprin, Mike Jordan, Linda Stokes and Anne VanTine produced the majority of new shows seen on Stow TV in 2014. Nicholas Rocca, Rebecca Stadolnik, and Dan Nicholson also operated cameras and mixers. Linda Stokes recorded most of the Selectmen meetings. Lew Halprin was always willing to fill in or help, and provided the lion's share of shows. Ralph DeFlorio and Scott Glorioso, assisted with sound for some recordings. Bob Mong and Beth Tobey provided IT support. Jonathan Daisy and Lee Pappas managed Town Meeting sound and setup, with help and advice from Lew Halprin.

Stow producers created 175 new shows in addition to 25 Selectmen meetings and two Town Meetings. About 84 shows produced outside of Stow were cablecast, in addition to 15 school committee meetings recorded by the district. In all, Stow TV cablecast 310 different shows during the year. There were over 1630 shows in the video archives at the end of 2014. Many shows from previous years were replayed for annual events or special occasions.

Video of Selectmen, Town Meetings, School Committee, and other town and school events helped educate residents about local issues and the actions of their government. The bulletin board encouraged voter participation with registration and election information. Stow TV collaborated with town departments to create effective public service announcements.

Stow TV set up a YouTube “video on demand” channel available in 2014. Assistant Coordinator Kathy O’Keefe investigated, prototyped and implemented the site. She continues to populate it with appropriate government, education, and public shows. This makes local government information available to all Stow residents, and provides a wider audience for the shows created by Stow TV volunteers.

Stow TV upgraded its video server and purchased a new bulletin board system that integrates with the server. The bulletin board automatically displays the show schedule and announces upcoming shows. Among its features is the ability to include short videos with the slides. Assistant Coordinator O’Keefe learned this new system and has created over two hundred eye-catching announcements that she regularly updates based on resident requests.

Stow TV participated in a number of projects this year. The staff conducted a station tour for Tiger Scout Den 7. Many residents played roles in an April Fool movie created by Stow TV volunteers about an invasion from space. Stow TV supported the town’s “Solar Challenge” with video and PSAs. Stow TV encouraged new volunteers and the Assistant Coordinator mentored 7th grader Nick Rocca in production of “Extreme Home Design.” Stow TV continued to collaborate and exchange videos with Bolton and Lancaster TV. Online sharing of videos and uploading to YouTube revised the station workflow and added new tasks for the staff.

New furniture and a different room design made the office space more comfortable for volunteers and staff to work together. Purchase of an additional HD camcorder underlined the need for more robust editing capability. A new desktop computer and laptop, along with better editing software, met this need. Two older laptops were upgraded to extend their useful life. A new laser printer serves many needs, and a new inkjet printer makes attractive DVD labels.

LACAC met five times during the year. LACAC members contributed time, advice, and oversight for planning, equipment, and policy decisions. In June, Gary Bernklow’s term as a Selectman ended and he was replaced with Selectman Brian Burke. LACAC members Bob Glorioso and Lee Pappas advised on equipment selection.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Burke
Robert Glorioso
Len Golder

Lisa Lavina
Lee Pappas
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator